

Name _____



Fate's Power

In *The Monkey's Paw*, W.W. Jacobs explores a powerful idea: humans cannot control fate, no matter how hard they try. The story follows the White family as they attempt to shape their destiny using a mysterious monkey's paw. However, each wish they make only brings unexpected and tragic results.

When Sergeant-Major Morris visits the Whites, he tells them about the paw's dark history. It grants three wishes, but every wish comes with consequences. He warns them that the paw is dangerous, but curiosity gets the better of Mr. White. Hoping for a little extra money, he wishes for two hundred pounds.

At first, nothing happens, and the family laughs at the idea. But the next day, their wish is granted in the worst way possible. A factory representative arrives to tell them that their son, Herbert, has died in an accident. As compensation, they receive exactly two hundred pounds. The Whites realize too late that they cannot control fate—their wish led to heartbreak instead of happiness.

Grief and desperation drive Mrs. White to demand a second wish. She begs her husband to use the monkey's paw to bring Herbert back. Mr. White hesitates, knowing that fate may twist this wish as well, but he gives in. Soon, a slow, heavy knock echoes at the door. The sound fills the house with fear.

Mrs. White rushes to let Herbert in, but Mr. White is horrified. He knows that his son has been dead for days—what if he has not returned as the son they knew? Terrified, he grabs the monkey's paw and makes the final wish. Instantly, the knocking stops. When Mrs. White opens the door, nothing is there.

The story suggests that fate is beyond human control. The Whites' wishes do not work as expected, and their attempts to change destiny only bring more pain. *The Monkey's Paw* warns that no one can escape fate, no matter how much they try to change it.